THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.

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C. M. SCHWAB FAILED ONCE

He Tried to Be a Horseshoer, but the Horse Objected and He Quit.

"Even a great man has to choose his trade. He can't succeed at any old thing," a horseshoer told an outsider at the recent Philadelphia convention of the trade. "A genius in the iron trade once tried mine and gave it up after one attempt.

"You've heard of Charles M. Schwab, the steel magnate who is building a palace for himself in New York with a few of his millions. Well, he tried to shoe a horse once and couldn't do it.

"It was when he was a young man just about old enough to earn his own living. He used to take his father's horse to the shop of Pat Moran, the horseshoer in Loretto village, to be shod.

"Time and time again he asked Pat to let him nail on a shoe. He seemed to like the business.

"'Ah, g'wan,' Pat would tell him. 'Yer can't shoe yerself. Yer daddy has to do it fer yer.'

"But young Schwab stuck to it and finally one day the smith let him try it. And he bungled it so that after a while the patient horse landed out with his foot and away went the youngster to the other side of the smithy.

"'I guess I can never learn horse shoeing,' he said when he picked himself up.

"He never tried again, but took up a trade of which he could make himself the master.

"He calls to see Moran whenever he goes home to Loretto now, and they talk about how a promising recruit to the trade gave it up.

"'Well, he couldn't shoe a horse whatever else he's able to do,' the blacksmith says when he hears about another of Mr. Schwab's successes.

THE CATACOMBS OF ROME.

Important Historical Discoveries Being Made There.

Discoveries of the first importance to the students of the evidences of Christianity and to archaeologists are confidently looked for from the continued exploration of the Catacombs of Rome. Of the forty-five cemeteries known to have existed, only five have been made accessible to visitors. The principal catacombs, those on the Appia, Nomentana, Salaria and Ardeatina, although open, are not yet thoroughly explored. The soil being of volcanic origin, is too soft to be utilized for building purposes, but it is of sufficient consistency to enable excavations to be prosecuted without the aid of supports. Until the ninth century the catacombs were places of pilgrimage, but from then until the nineteenth they were neglected. The entrances became blocked and almost all the sites were lost sight of. It is computed that fully 6,000,000 of bodies lie buried in the Roman catacombs, or more than double the number that are interred in the catacombs of Paris The most ancient of all known catacombs are those of the Theban kings which are over 4,000 years old.

Moorish Imagery.

The specimen below in the Moorish epistolary style, which comes from Mr. Budgett Meakin's recent book, "The Moors," and is merely an invitation to dinner, is calculated to make the imaginative resources of our entertainers, who write on a visiting card, "Come and dine," look small indeed.

"To my gracious master, my respected lord:

"This evening, please God, when the king of the army of stars, the sun of the worlds, will turn toward the realm of shades and place his foot in the stirrup of speed, thou art besought to lighten us with the dazzling rays of thy face, rivalled only by the sun. Thy arrival, like a spring breeze, will dissipate the dark night of solitude and isolation."

Husband's Mean Trick.

A Brooklyn man had a spat with his wife, and she deserted him. He offered a reward of ten cents for information regarding her whereabouts. The small reward made her indignant, and she returned two days later to renew the spat, and "have it out with the mean fellow."

LITTLE THINGS Worth Knowing

Wing Brothers, prominent farmers residing southwest of Marysville, Ohio, claim to be the champion raisers of pumpkins in the State. They recently placed on exhibition one that tipped the scales at seventy-two and a half pounds. This pumpkin, made into pies, counting four pies to the pound and selling for twenty cents each, would be worth $57.80.

Mexico has a clever bird called the mala narpes, which has discovered a new use for the telegraph pole. At the foot of the post this bird makes a large hole, in which it rears its family; somewhat higher up the post it makes an observatory, from which bored holes permit it to observe the horizon in every direction; still higher this sagacious bird makes its storehouse, and thus the pole serves as its home, fortress and warehouse.

According to the native papers, says a Tokio (Japan) dispatch to the London Daily Mail, a host of large butterflies, numbering about 50,000, entered a house and fluttered round an electric light in the parlor. The occupant of the house was frightened and ordered his servants to burn a fire in the street. The butterflies swarmed to the fire, and many of them were burned to death. But the survivors gathered round the lantern at the door of a "soba" house, and afterwards charged the lamp of a police box in the neighborhood, but finally all perished.

Nature's electricity is exemplified by a pecular tree in the forests of Central India, which has most curious characteristics. The leaves of the tree are of a highly sensitive nature, and so full of electricity that whoever touches one of them receives an electric shock. It has a very singular effect upon a magnetic needle, and will influence it at a distance of even seventy feet. The electrical strength of the tree varies according to the time of day, it being strongest at midday and weakest at midnight. In wet weather its power disappears altogether. Birds never approach the tree, nor have insects ever been seen upon it.

In an experiment whose purpose was to trace the stages of development of a baby's mind, the infant was placed before a mirror daily. During the earliest stage of the test, he simply looked at his reflection, as birds do. He next showed fear of it, as do many of the higher animals. He then grasped at it with his hands, as cats strike at reflections with their paws. Later he looked behind the glass to find the object, as cats and monkeys have been known to do. But on the 420th day of his life he deliberately turned the glass at different angles to obtain the required reflections, an intelligence not possessed by any animal other than man.

Recently John H. Tudor, a well-known citizen of Lexington, Ky., went squirrel hunting a few miles from the city. He bagged a number of squirrels, but in the "bagging" lost a watch. He was puzzled over it until he recollected a dream that his watch was in a certain spot near where he had hunted. He rubbed his eyes and announced to his family: "Some folks don't believe in dreams, and others believe they go by contrary. I don't. I know that watch is there." He went where the dream had directed him to go, and found his watch. It was hanging to a twig of a tree. He had shot a squirrel in that tree, and as the squirrel had lodged in the tree he went up it and got his victim. In descending his watch had been torn from his pocket.

"Bait" For Wild Turkeys.

Wild turkeys are still quite plentiful in some portions of North Carolina, as they are also in Arkansas, Texas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Southern Missouri, says the American Field, but just how long they will be plentiful in any of these States is a question, if the States possess a Gil McDuffie, as does North Carolina, who, it is said, only a short time since killed seven turkeys at one shot. It is claimed that McDuffie has killed 1500 wild turkeys and 700 deer in his time, besides countless numbers of smaller game. The way he makes his war on turkeys is by "baiting." He finds land which a flock of turkeys use and he lays a train of corn to a locality where he can arrange a good blind. The blind is made and corn is put out in good quantity for the turkeys not far away, he being careful to place the corn in such shape that when the turkeys feed upon it they will be well bunched. He then secretes himself in his blind and lies in wait for the turkeys. When they come and get bunched up over the quart or two of corn, he turns loose with a shotgun, and the slaughter is tremendous.

Rain Water Good, If You Like It.

"When a man gets used to drinking rain water," said Mr. N. D. McDonald, of New Orleans, to the Washington Post, "there is no other water in the world that tastes so good. Most of the people in New Orleans have cisterns in their yards which hold an abundant supply of water caught from the clouds—the purest and best in the world, according to my notion. The winter rainfall alone is used, the summer catch not being desirable. It is somewhat curious that in northern latitudes the cistern water does not keep wholesome and sweet as it does in our country."

PEARL FISHERIES FAILING.

Comparatively Few Claims Are Left in the Mississippi Sand Bars.

Pearl-bearing clams are disappearing from the sandbars of Arkansas and the Mississippi River at a rate that threatens to make the species extinct in less than two years. The beginning of the end has commenced, and unless new fields are discovered soon the pearl-fishing industry of the United States will be a thing of the past.

The reasons for this are manifold. Of late years the demands on the clam have been more than it could stand. In addition to its "prize-package" manner of yielding up pearls, the shell of the bivalve itself is of value. During the past year twenty-five factories for the conversion of clam shells into pearl buttons have been erected at Muscatine, Iowa. This now makes fifty-five in this one town alone, in which the clam shell is made into articles of commercial value.

Early in the year shiploads of clam shells began to be exported, and this has been the means of disposing of whatever surplus yield there might be, and has also raised the price so that pearl fishers are no longer able to grapple all day for nothing in the hope of bringing up a prize bivalve. These shells bring from $12 to $15 a ton, and can readily be sold to barges in which they are taken from the pearl-fishing regions to the factories.

Two years ago the Black River in Arkansas was the greatest pearl-yielding river in the United States, but its thirty miles of sandbars were worked by such an industarious gang of fortune hunters that nearly every clam was removed from its bottom in less than nine months. Flushed with their success, these hunters then swarmed out on the Mississippi. In this river the pearls are scare and not so valuable, and not much was done in the way of getting rich until a very valuable pearl field was found in the White River, in Arkansas.

Thither hurried the pearl fishers. All the past season they have been grappling for clams there, until now, as the season closes, few clams are left on the sandbars. A few months or six weeks more on this river will clean it out entirely and perhaps forever, of pearl-bearing bivalves.

The most promising field is the Cumberland River, in Kentucky. Here the pearls are very valuable, but very scarce, and it is doubtful if it will be worked to any great extent. When this river is dragged clean, whatever domestic pearls there are left must come from the Mississippi, and these are so poor and so scarce that fishing for them can hardly be called an industry.

The Arkansas pearls have been of a particularly fine quality, some of them far excelling the Oriental pearl, and pearl dealers in the United States, until they saw the beginning of the end, have been happy. Now, however, in view of the fact that pearls are rapidly becoming more popular, and promise in the future to be the rival of the diamond, jewelers will be much affected when the domestic pearl has become a rare article.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Ancient Bracelets Found.

Four magnificent bracelets belonging to the Queen of King Zer, who reigned nearly 5000 B. C., were among the discoveries made by Professor Petrie while excavating at Abydos, Egypt. The workmanship of these is most ingenious and delicate. The finest bracelet is formed of alternating plaques of gold and turquoise, each surmounted with the royal hawk and paneled to imitate the front of the tomb or palace. This bracelet consists of thirteen gold and fourteen turquoise plaques in the form of a facade, whereupon was inscribed the name of the queen. The gold was worked by chisel and burnishing. The second bracelet had a centre piece of gold, with amethyst and turquoise heads and bands of braided gold wire. The fastening of the bracelet was by loops and button of a hollow ball of gold, with a shank of gold wire fastened in it. The third bracelet is of spiral beads of gold and lazuli in three groups. Making the fourth bracelet are four groups of hour-glass beads, amethyst between gold, with connections of gold and turquoise.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Time Tables as Geographies.

"I never realized the value of time tables until I got hold of a class of boys old enough to take an interest in geography," said a New York public school teacher. "So far as the study of maps goes I can get better results from the use of time tables than from all the geographies in the market. Maps that have been prepared for the purpose of cultivating the youthful mind in the matter of locality are shunned as bugbears by all but the studious few. But just set a dozen boys around a pile of time tables and tell them to locate certain cities, lakes and rivers, and they will work like beavers and come out letter-perfect every time. For most children time tables and accompanying maps are a source of unfailing interest both in and out of school hours. It is true that this unorthodox method may give the boys exaggerated ideas as to the importance of certain railroads, but they seem to get enough good out of the investigation to counteract such impressions."—New York Times.

Do Fishes Hear?

Did any one ever see a fish's ears? Do fishes have ears? It has been pretty well proven that they hear. Scientists have made up a list of about 100 fishes that make sounds. Why should they make sounds unless they expect to be heard? The drum drums. The puffer croaks. Even the weakfish complains with an internal voice when the cruel fisherman leaves it to die in the bottom of the boat. Possibly fishes hear through their teeth.—New York Press.

GOOD ROADS

Drawing Heavy Loads of Logs.

A METHOD of road making whereby one span of horses is enabled to draw half a carload of logs is in vogue in some districts of Vermont and New Hampshire, where the International Paper Company, through its agent, Charles H. Green, is carrying on operations for pulp wood. In the summer the location of the road is selected, care being taken that it shall be entirely down grade, and this site is cleared and graded. As soon as snow comes the road is scraped, after which a sprinkler is run over it and the entire mass allowed to freeze, making a solid mass of ice. The road is then divided into sections of about half a mile each, and each section is given in charge of a man, whose duty it is to keep it in repair.

To keep the load from running onto the horses hay is sprinkled in the road, and to such an extent that the horses are obliged to pull, even on the steepest grades. Gravel has been used for this purpose, but it was found to wear out the runners. Now cheap flat grass hay is used. The hay is raked every night and scattered freshly every morning. If there has been snow during the night the section man must scrape it all off before putting on the hay, and repair all damage done the day previous.

As the first load comes down in the morning the section man is at the upper end of his beat, and rides down, looking out for places where the horses are crowded or where there is too much hay. The least bumping or shaking shows a defect in the road which must be remedied at once. All manure is immediately removed. Most of these roads have a "go-back road" in connection. When the ice is off a good carriage roads remains for use during the summer.

The cost of making and keeping the road is of course large. In one instance at Granville, Vt., $3500 was expended on two and a half miles of road. On the other hand there is great saving. Previous to making these roads Mr. Green paid fifty cents per 1000 feet of logs per mile for hauling. The average price is now seventeen to twenty cents 1000 feet per mile. The heaviest load carried this year was on this Granville road, when a span of horses drew a sled loaded with nearly seven cords of logs, a weight of 30,000 pounds. The heaviest load ever drawn by two horses was at Waterville, N. H., where for two and a half miles a load was moved which after sawing measured thirteen cords, 117 feet, only a fraction less than two carloads. This load was viewed by about 200 people. Where short logs are carried narrow sleds are used, but where the logs are long it is found necessary to have wide sleds

Repair Earth Roads Promptly.

It is more convenient to look after earth roads in spring and fall, but do not allow them to take care of themselves for the remainder of the year. The greatest common road need in the United States is frequent inspection. If this is given daily no extensive repairs will be necessary, and instead of a road becoming worse it will improve from day to day.

The road should be carefully leveled at all times with a drag, smoothing harrow or any instrument that will fill up the ruts, level down elevations and keep the road so that water will run off readily as soon as it falls. The best method of doing this must be decided upon by each locality. In some places the road grader is used with the best of results. The great difficulty has been that sufficient road graders are not available to keep all the roads in any particular section in the best of condition. Drags so constructed as to level the road and draw the earth near the middle are very satisfactory and are not at all expensive. Any farmer can make them for himself.

It is very important to prevent water standing on the surface, but it is equally important to see that it is also removed from ditches alongside the road. This can sometimes be accomplished by having good open drains, but in most cases these should be supplemented by tile. Just where to place the tile is frequently a problem. In the comparatively level sections of the Central West a tile in the bottom of the ditch at either side of the road is probably all that is necessary.

If land inclines to wash badly this tile should not be placed in the bottom of the ditch, for it will soon become uncovered and ineffective. Place it either nearer the road or between the ditch and the road fence. The depth for the tile and the size to be used will all depend upon the amount of water to be removed, the character of the soil, etc. Where the tile is very carefully laid one inch of fall to the 100 feet is sufficient.

Animal Instinct in Winter.

With many forms of life the readiness for winter is not to secure a place to protect them from cold or even from freezing, but the security against sudden changes of conditions and of temperature. It is a protection in some cases similar to that of plants on the lawn that were covered with straw by the gardener when he made ready for winter. In some places of the kind, for instance in the squirrel's nest, there is undoubtedly real animal warmth and coziness. Fish seek the deepest parts of pools, where the temperature of the water is very near freezing, and where it remains very near this point until spring.—St. Nicholas.

Wrong Environment.

Louis Evan Shipman, the novelist and playwright, when in Philadelphia a fortnight ago, looking after his interests in Actor Hackett's performances of "The Crisis" told of an aged negress who, visiting in a strange town, strolled into a Episcopal church that had a "Strangers Welcome" placard displayed at the door. She was a good Zionist, and very regular and devout with regard to the services in her own church at home. The responsive reading and the frequent "Amens" interested her and, in time, made her very fervid; and she began to punctuate the service with lusty "Hallelujahs." She attracted attention, and finally was approached by the sexton who said:

"Madam, you cannot carry on that way here."

"But I'se got religion!" she explained, ecstatically.

"That may be so," answered the sexton, "but madam, this is no place to show it."

How the Twelve Apostles Died.

According to the traditions of the church, Andrew suffered martrydom on a cross of the form known as St Andrew's cross; Bartholomew was crucified; James, the elder, was beheaded; James, the brother of our Lord, was probably stoned to death; Matthew died a natural death; Philip died a violent death, but by what mode is uncertain; St. Peter was crucified; Jude probably suffered martyrdom in Persia; John, the beloved, lived to be about 100 years old; Simon Zelotes was crucified at 129 years old; Thomas was put to death in India, and Judas hung himself.

Sympathy Among Poles.

A Polish nobleman and his wife, being brought up for some political offense, arrived at the spa of Zapport, having their heads shaved, according to the Russian custom in some trials. Next day all the Poles at the place, both men and women, had the same operation performed on their own heads as a mark of sympathy.